



THE NEW MUTANTS[®]

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STAN LEE PRESENTS:

SATURDAY NIGHT FIGHT

THE **NEW MUTANTS** VERSUS THE **GLADIATORS**

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THERE'S A PLACE IN LOS ANGELES WHERE THE JADED RICH GO--AS THE ANCIENT ROMANS DID TO THEIR COLISEUM--AND PAY BIG BUCKS TO WATCH PEOPLE TRY THEIR BEST TO KILL EACH OTHER.

HERE, IT'S CALLED THE ARENA, AND THE COMBATANTS ARE GLADIATORS.

TONIGHT'S MAIN EVENT PITS A PAIR OF KID-NAPPED TEENAGERS--ROBERT D'ACOSTA AND AMARA AQUILLA--AGAINST A HULKING NIGHTMARE. THUS FAR, THE BETS FAVOR THE CREATURE. THE KIDS, MOST OF THE CROWD FIGURES, DON'T HAVE A PRAYER.



ON A Dais CENTER-STAGE,
SINGING HER HEART OUT--
PROVIDING A MUSICAL
COUNTERPART TO THE LIFE-
AND-DEATH STRUGGLE
RAGING NEARBY--IS
ALISON BLAIRE, THE
DAZZLER.

LIKE BOBBY AND AMARA,
SHE'S A MUTANT-- BORN
WITH FANTASTIC POWERS
THAT BRAND HER AS AN
OUTCAST FROM HUMANITY
AS SURELY AND IRREVOCABLY
AS GOD'S MARK DID
CAIN.

SHE TAKES SOUND--
HER SONG, HER MUSIC,
THE ROAR OF THE CROWD,
THE CLASH OF STEEL, A
CRY OF PAIN-- AND TRANS-
FORMS IT INTO LIGHT...

...A PHANTASMA-
GORIC, BREATH-
TAKING COLLAGE
OF BRILLIANT
COLORS THAT
SWIRLS ABOUT HER
AS IF IT HAD LIFE
AND AWARENESS
OF ITS OWN.



IT'S SUCH RAW BEAUTY
AS NONE IN THE AUDI-
ENCE HAVE EVER SEEN
AND WHICH FEW CAN
ENDURE. IT OVERWHELMS
THEIR SENSES FAR, FAR
MORE THAN ANY DRUG.
IT REACHES FROM THE
CORE OF ALI'S BEING TO
THEIRS AND LEAVES THEM
TRULY DAZZLED.

FOR THESE PEOPLE,
NOTHING WILL EVER BE
THE SAME. AFTER TO-
NIGHT, NO LIGHT WILL
EVER BE AS RADIANT,
AND THE MOST GLORI-
OUS HUES WILL LOOK
FADED AND DULL BY
COMPARISON. IT'S A
MOMENT OF GLORY
THAT WILL SHADOW THE
REST OF THEIR LIVES,
A MEMORY THAT WILL
FOREVER HAUNT THEM.

A PUNISHMENT
FAR MORE SEVERE--
AND FITTING-- THAN
ANY PRISON.

**AWARE OF THAT,
AND ENJOYING
EVERY MINUTE,
IS THE MASTER
OF THE GAMES...**

KILL THEM, MY PET!

KILL HIM, MY CHILDREN!"

ТЕЕНЕТЕЕРНЕЕНАНАНАНО!

NO MATTER
THE OUTCOME,
I *WIN!*

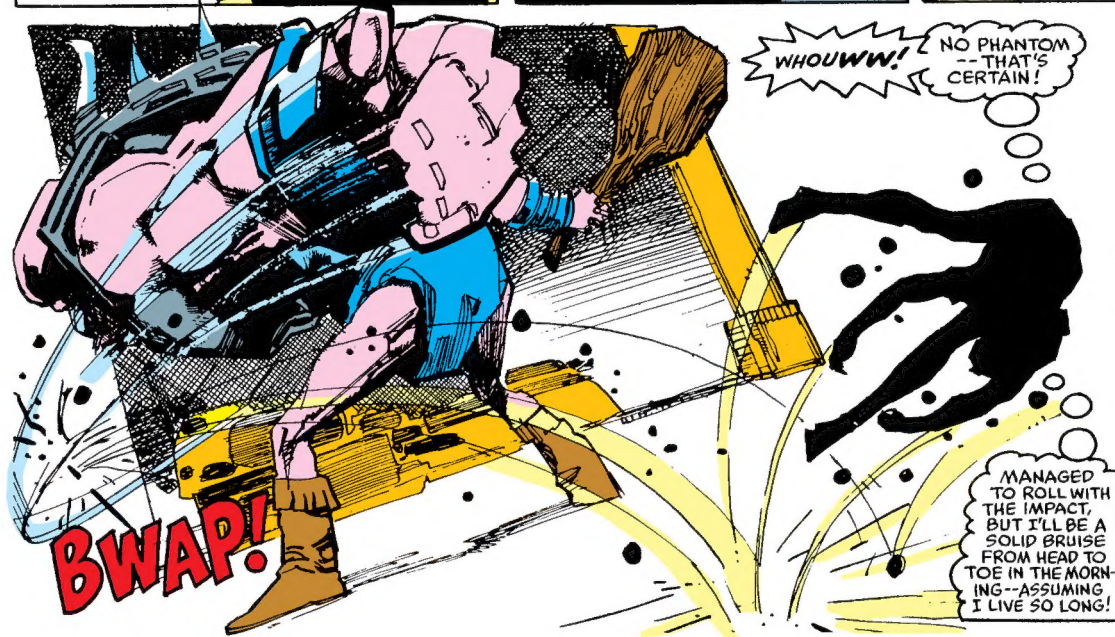
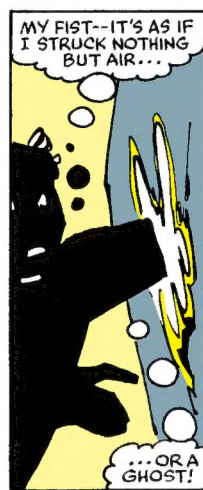
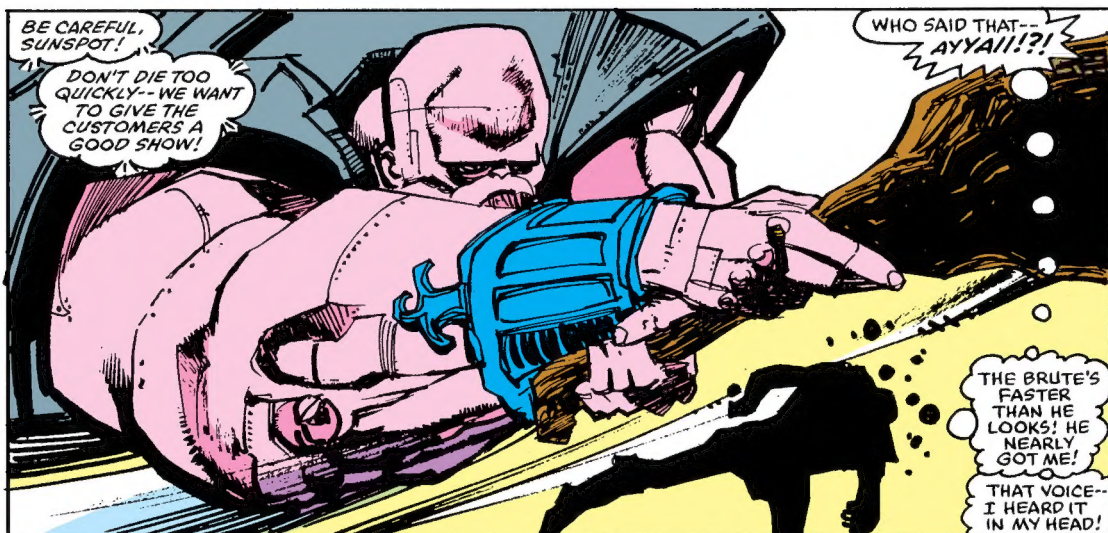
THOSE PATHETIC BABES HAVE NO IDEA THAT THEY BATTLE A ROBOT, AND LOCKED HELPLESSLY WITHIN IS THEIR WOULD-BE SAVIOUR, THE X-MAN, *KITTY PRYDE!* THEY MUST EITHER DESTROY HER, OR BE SLAIN THEMSELVES!

PERHAPS,
AFTERWARDS,
I SHALL HAVE
DAZZLER
EXECUTE THE
VICTOR--THAT
WOULD BE
AMUSING.

MOREOVER, EACH MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE WAS SECRETLY PHOTOGRAPHED AS THEY ARRIVED. I WONDER WHAT THEY WILL SAY WHEN I SEND THEM THE PICTURES? AND HOW HIGH A PRICE THEY WILL PAY TO KEEP ME FROM TURNING THEM OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES?!

DESPITE THEIR WEALTH AND
VAUNTED POWER, THEY WILL
SOON BE AS MUCH MY *SLAVES*
AS THESE MUTANTS IN MY
ARENA!

I SO LOVE IT WHEN
AN AFFAIR PROVES AS
PROFITABLE AS IT IS
ENJOYABLE.



THAT,
FOUL
CREATURE--

--IS QUITE
ENOUGH!

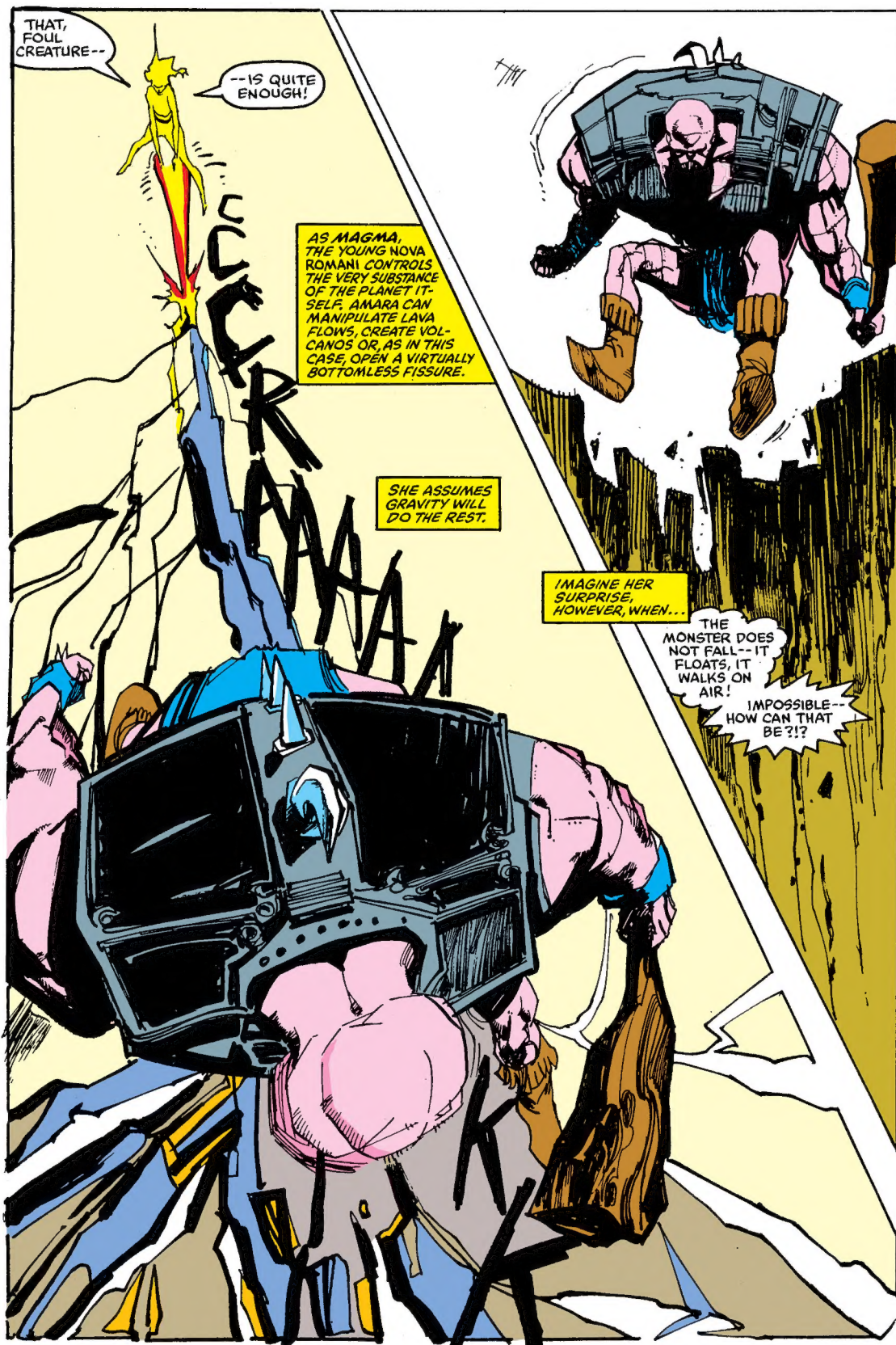
AS MAGMA,
THE YOUNG NOVA
ROMANI CONTROLS
THE VERY SUBSTANCE
OF THE PLANET IT-
SELF, AMARA CAN
MANIPULATE LAVA
FLOWS, CREATE VOL-
CANOS OR, AS IN THIS
CASE, OPEN A VIRTUALLY
BOTTOMLESS FISSURE.

SHE ASSUMES
GRAVITY WILL
DO THE REST.

IMAGINE HER
SURPRISE,
HOWEVER, WHEN...

THE
MONSTER DOES
NOT FALL--IT
FLOATS, IT
WALKS ON
AIR!

IMPOSSIBLE--
HOW CAN THAT
BE?!?



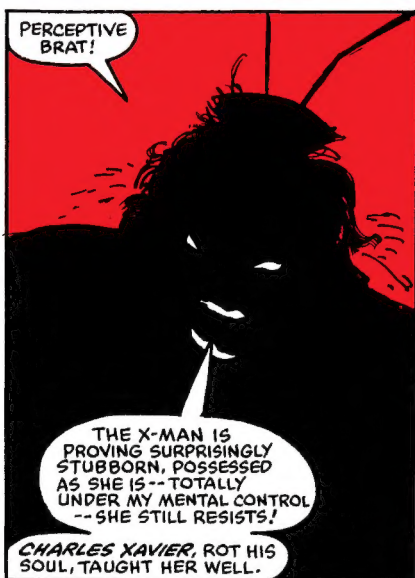


VERY WELL--LET US SEE HOW IT COPEs WITH MY *FLAMES*--!

NO, MAGMA, DON'T!

THINK A MOMENT-- WE *KNOW* THESE POWERS, AND WHO WIELDS THEM!

MAD AS IT SEEMS, I BELIEVE WE'RE FIGHTING *SHADOWCAT*!



PERCEPTIVE BRAT!

THE X-MAN IS PROVING SURPRISINGLY STUBBORN, POSSESSED AS SHE IS-- TOTALLY UNDER MY MENTAL CONTROL -- SHE STILL RESISTS!

CHARLES XAVIER, ROT HIS SOUL, TAUGHT HER WELL.



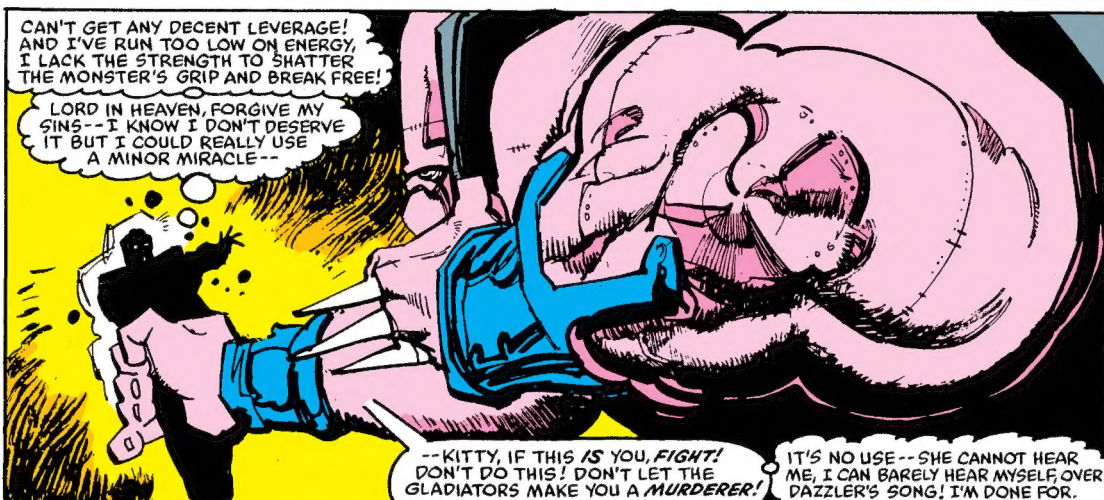
BUT MY WILL--

--MY VENGEANCE--



--WILL NOT BE DENIED!!

I'M CAUGHT!



CAN'T GET ANY DECENT LEVERAGE! AND I'VE RUN TOO LOW ON ENERGY, I LACK THE STRENGTH TO SHATTER THE MONSTER'S GRIP AND BREAK FREE!

LORD IN HEAVEN, FORGIVE MY SINS-- I KNOW I DON'T DESERVE IT BUT I COULD REALLY USE A MINOR MIRACLE--

--KITTY, IF THIS *IS* YOU, FIGHT! DON'T DO THIS! DON'T LET THE GLADIATORS MAKE YOU A *MURDERER*!

IT'S NO USE-- SHE CANNOT HEAR ME, I CAN BARELY HEAR MYSELF, OVER DAZZLER'S SONG! I'M DONE FOR.

SUNSPOT!

WHAT AM I TO DO?!
BERTO IS SUPER-STRONG BUT NOT INVULNERABLE. IF I UNLEASH A LAVA BLAST, HE COULD BE BURNED!

AND IF HIS SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT, HOW CAN I EVEN TRY SUCH A THING?! IT WOULD MEAN SAVING ONE FRIEND-- BY SACRIFICING ANOTHER!

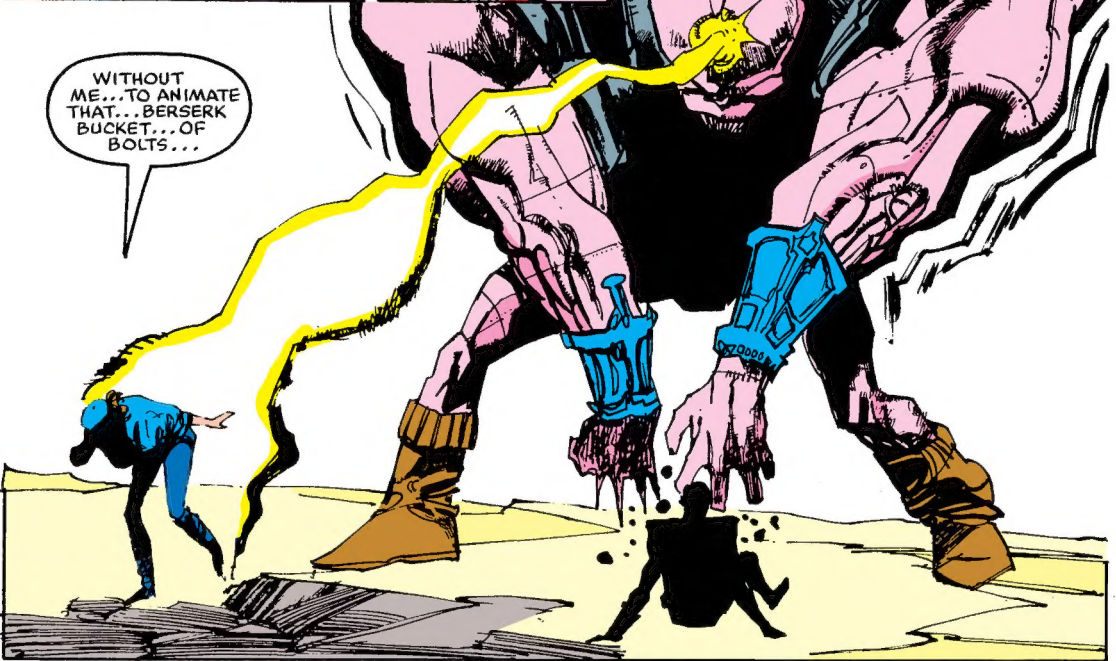
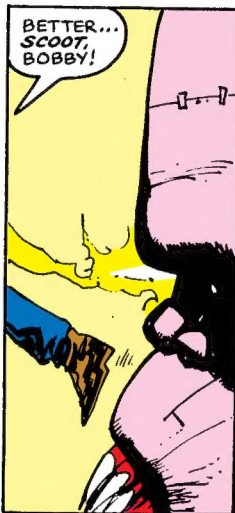
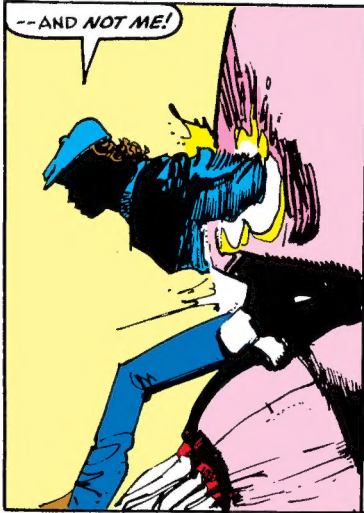
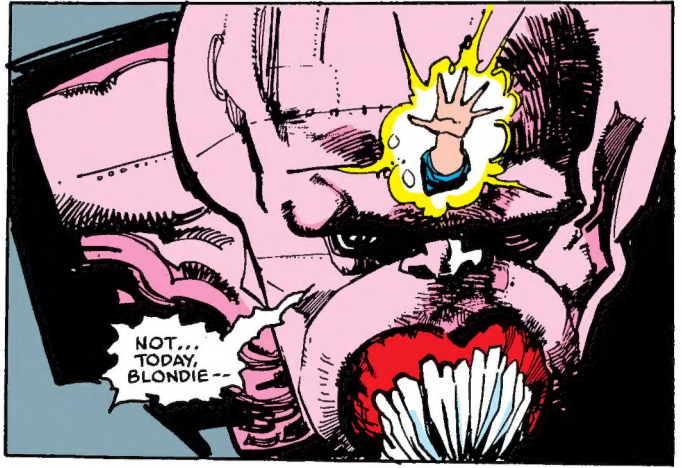
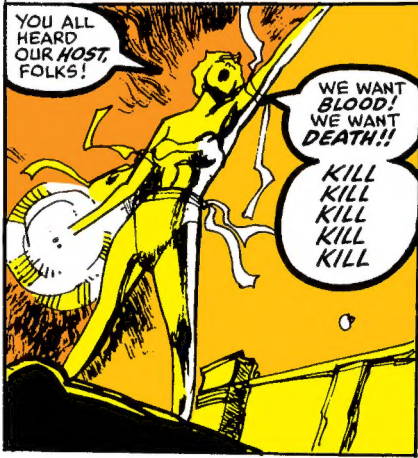
THAT, BARBARIAN, IS PRECISELY THE POINT.

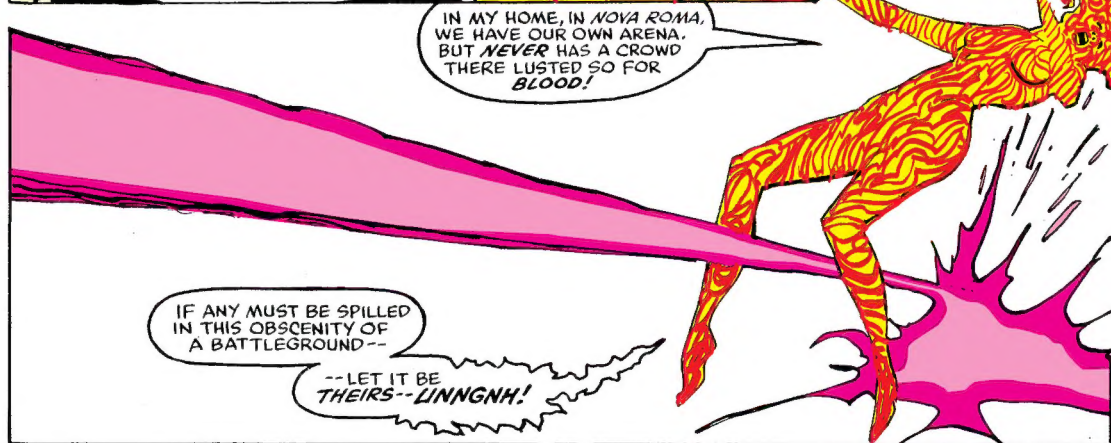
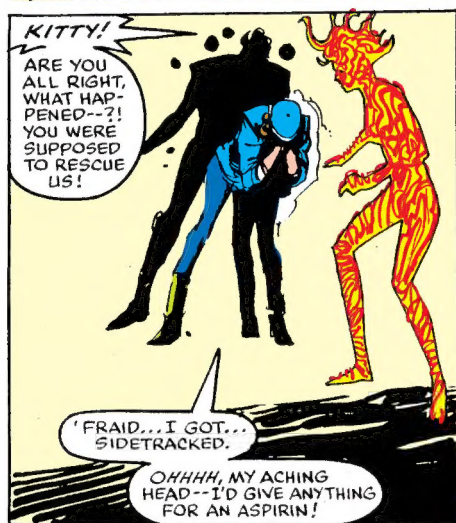
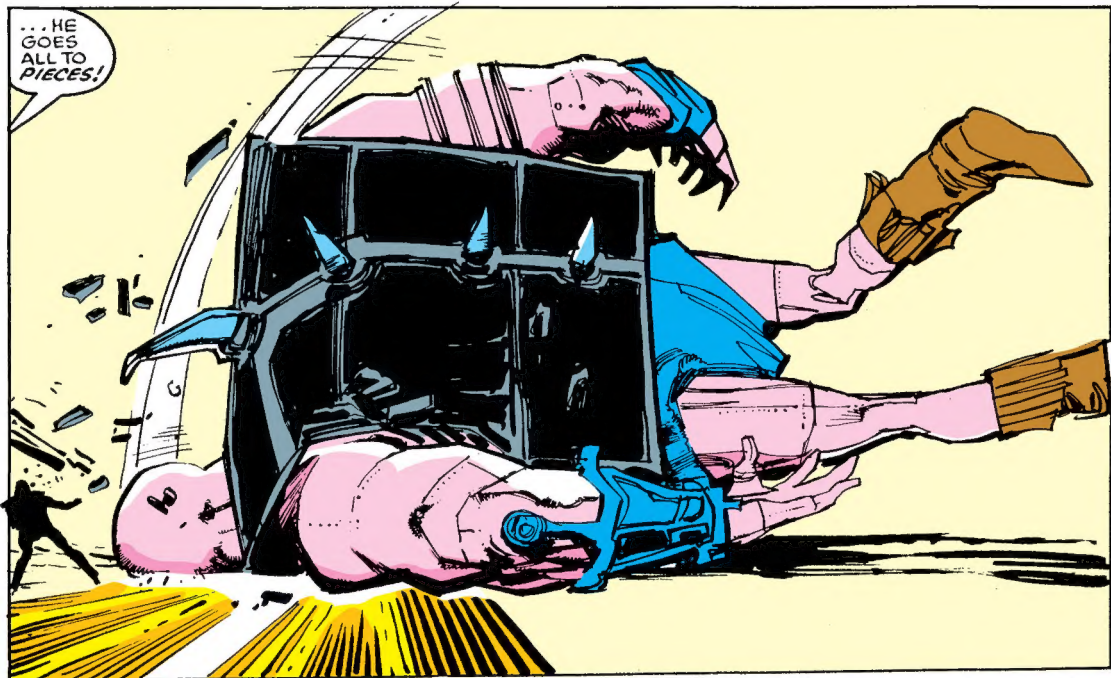
AGAIN, THE VOICE IN MY HEAD -- WHY IS IT SO FAMILIAR?!

EH-- THE CREATURE HESITATES!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR--

--KILL HIM!

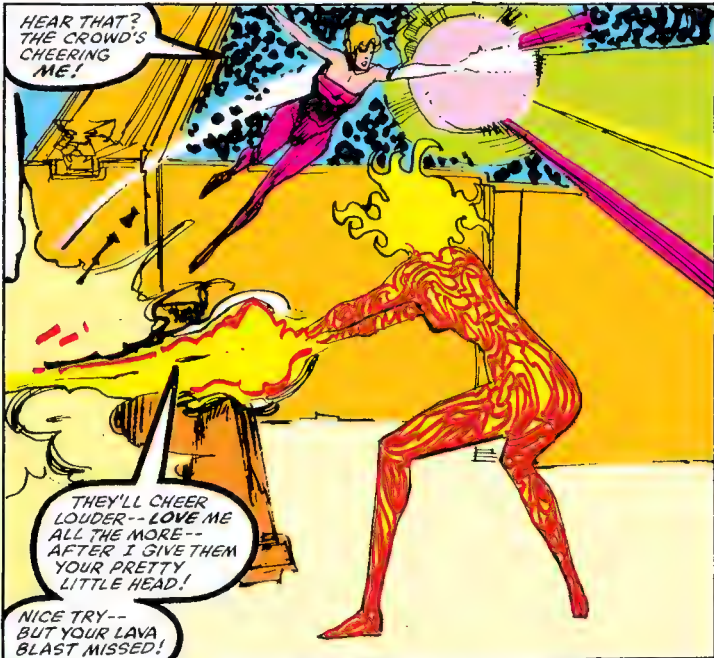






AMONG THE
GLADIATORS,
MAGMA--

-- ONLY THE
VICTORS
SURVIVE!



HEAR THAT?
THE CROWD'S
CHEERING
ME!

THEY'LL CHEER
LOUDER-- LOVE ME
ALL THE MORE--
AFTER I GIVE THEM
YOUR PRETTY
LITTLE HEAD!

NICE TRY--
BUT YOUR LAVA
BLAST MISSED!

YOU AND BOBBY WON'T
BE SO LUCKY!

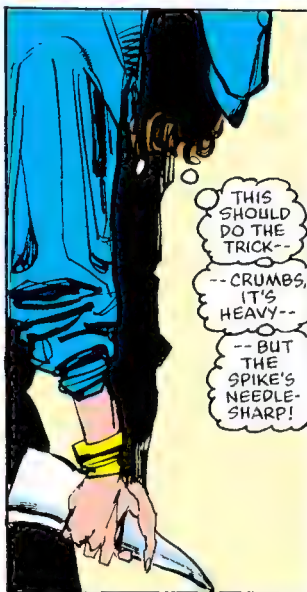
ALI'S VOICE-- BUT FATSO'S
THOUGHTS AND WORDS. SHE'S
POSSESSED, LIKE I WAS!

MUSTN'T LOOK AT HER--
SHE'S USING HER LIGHT
POWERS TO HYPNOTIZE
THE KIDS. I'M STILL
TOO WEAK-- IF I'M
SNARED AGAIN...



...I'VE HAD IT!

I NEED AN EQUALIZER--
SOMETHING *PHYSICAL*,
THAT DAZZLES AND
TELEPATHY CAN'T
AFFECT.



THIS
SHOULD
DO THE
TRICK--

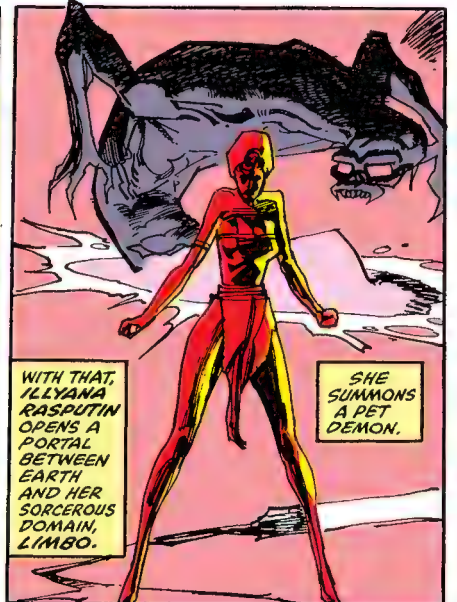
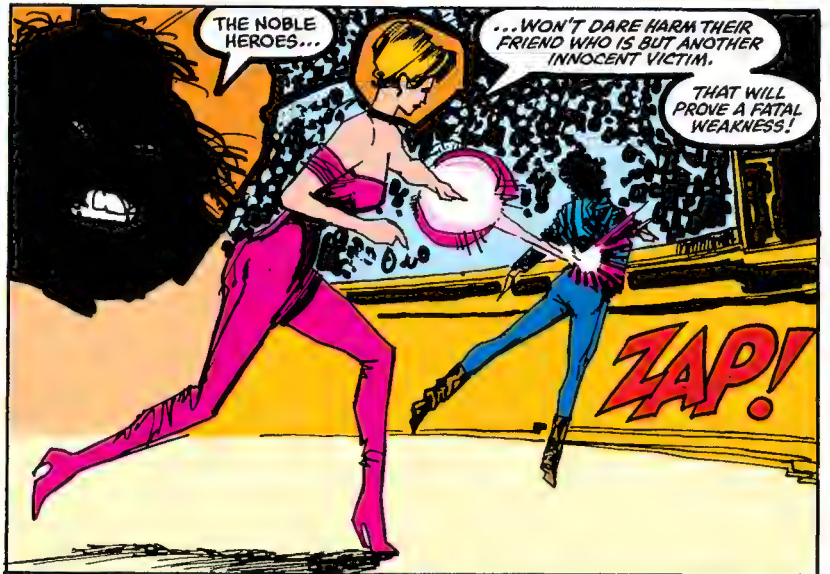
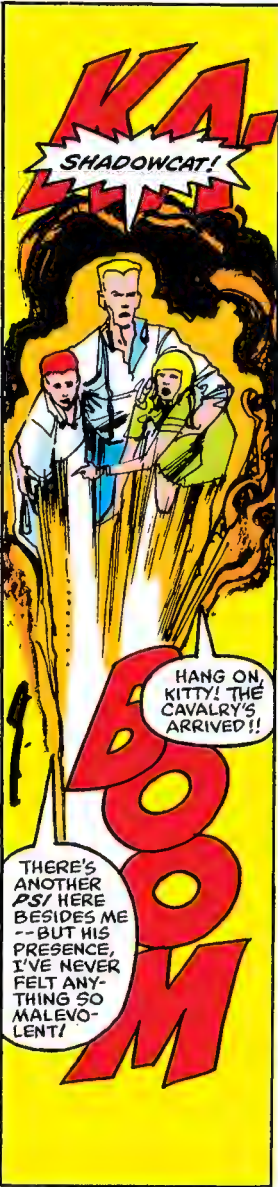
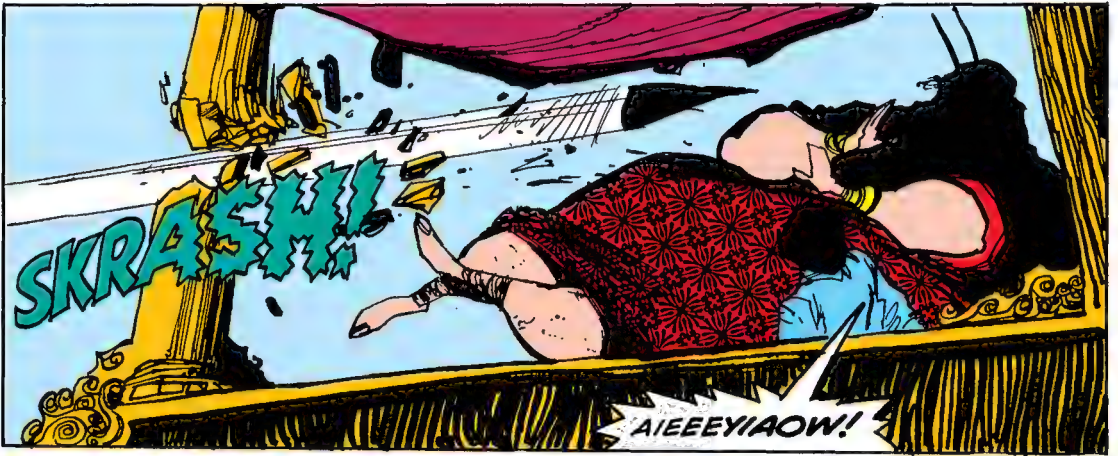
-- CRUMBS,
IT'S
HEAVY--

-- BUT
THE
SPIKE'S
NEEDLE-
SHARP!

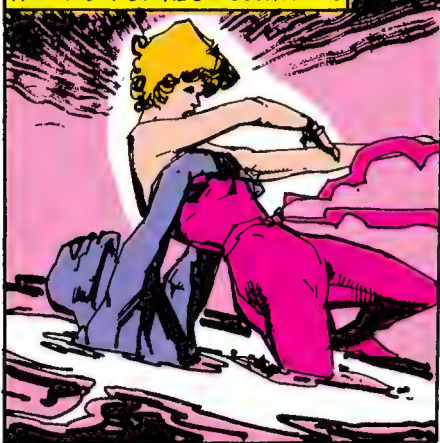


I DON'T WANT TO KILL
HER, BUT IF I THROW IT
HARD ENOUGH--

-- MAYBE THE
FRIGHT WILL BREAK
HER CONCENTRATION
AND FREE THE KIDS.



AND HAS IT STEAL DAZZLER AWAY.

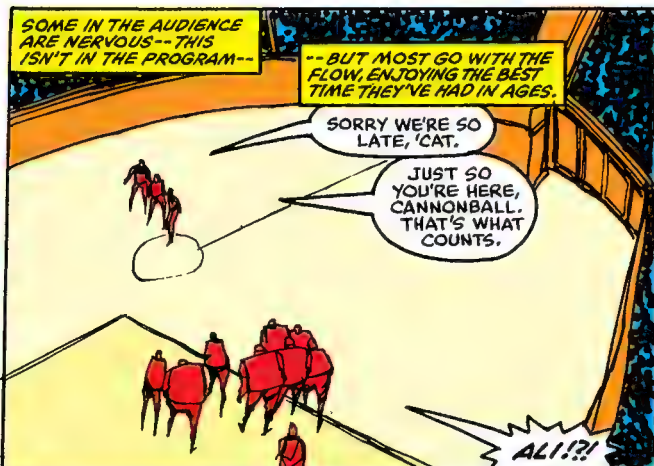


SOME IN THE AUDIENCE ARE NERVOUS-- THIS ISN'T IN THE PROGRAM--

-- BUT MOST GO WITH THE FLOW, ENJOYING THE BEST TIME THEY'VE HAD IN AGES.

SORRY WE'RE SO LATE, 'CAT.

JUST SO YOU'RE HERE, CANNONBALL. THAT'S WHAT COUNTS.



ALI!?!

THEY KILLED HER, THEY KILLED MY BEST FRIEND!

GLADIATORS, FOLLOW ME!

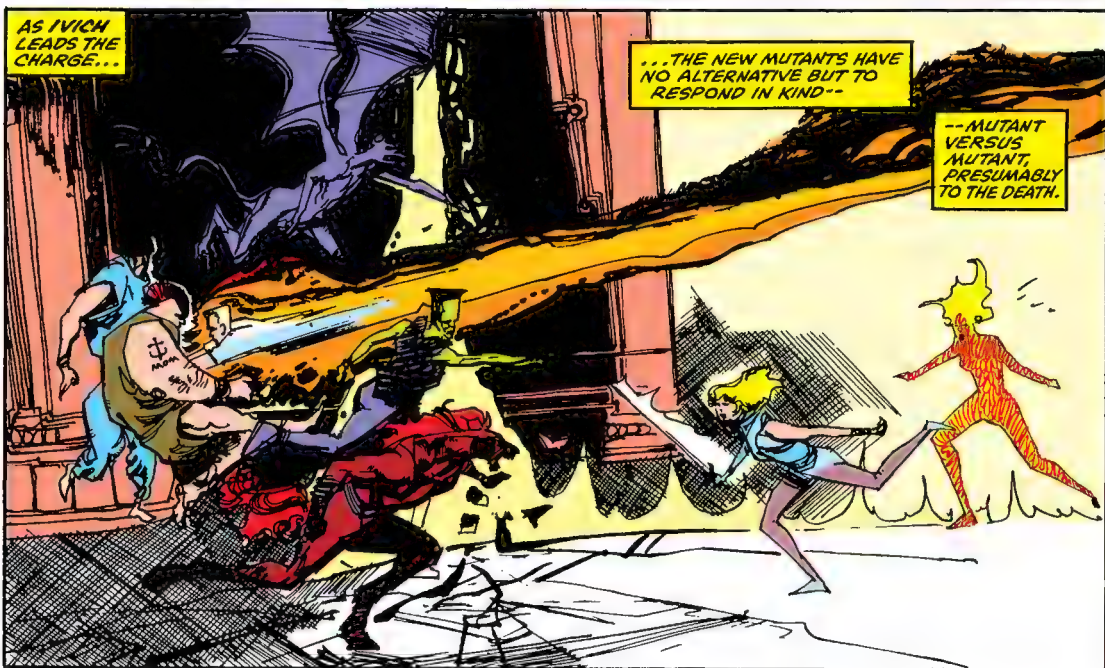
LET'S DO THE SAME TO THEM!



AS IVICH LEADS THE CHARGE...

...THE NEW MUTANTS HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RESPOND IN KIND--

--MUTANT VERSUS MUTANT, PRESUMABLY TO THE DEATH.



AS THE BATTLE RAGES, A CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE BECOMES APPARENT: THE NEW MUTANTS ARE A TEAM...

...WHEREAS THE GLADIATORS ARE INDIVIDUALS, UNUSED TO WORKING BESIDE-- AND THEREBY TRUSTING--ANYONE. SLOWLY, BUT INEXORABLY, THE ADVANTAGE SHIFTS TOWARDS THE TEENAGERS.

"WE NEED HER!!"

OH!?!

OKAY-- BUT IF YOU'RE WRONG, SHE GOES BACK, FOREVER!"

"DO YOU HEAR--?!"

WEOWEOWEOWEOWEOWEO

THE POLICE!

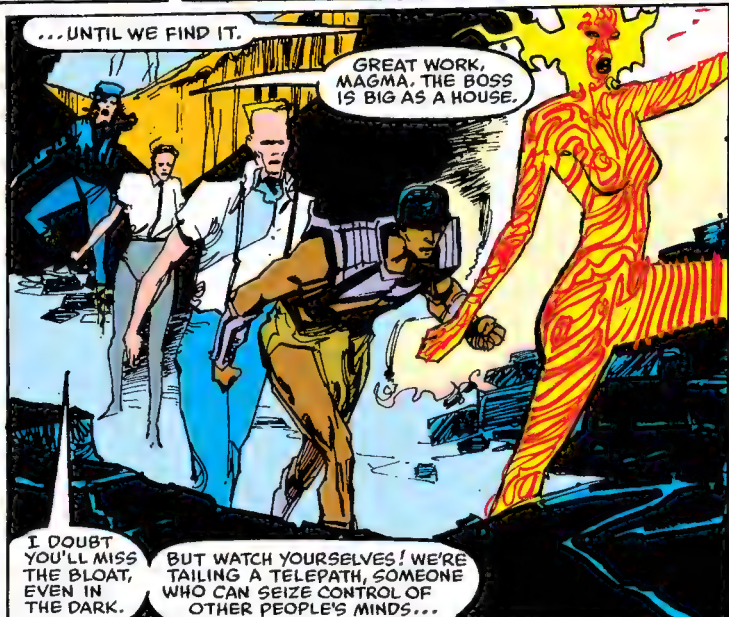
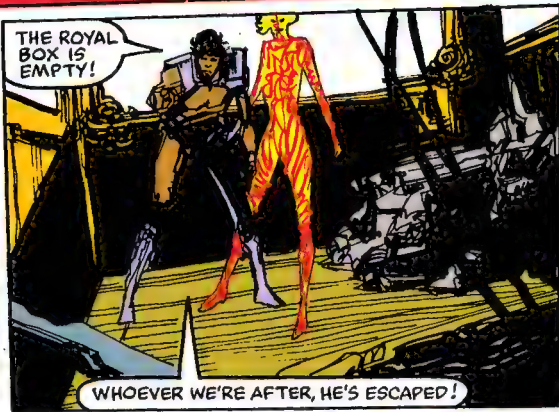
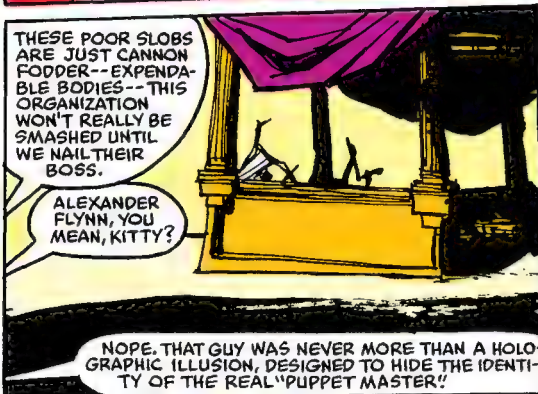
BUT WE WERE PROMISED PROTECTION!

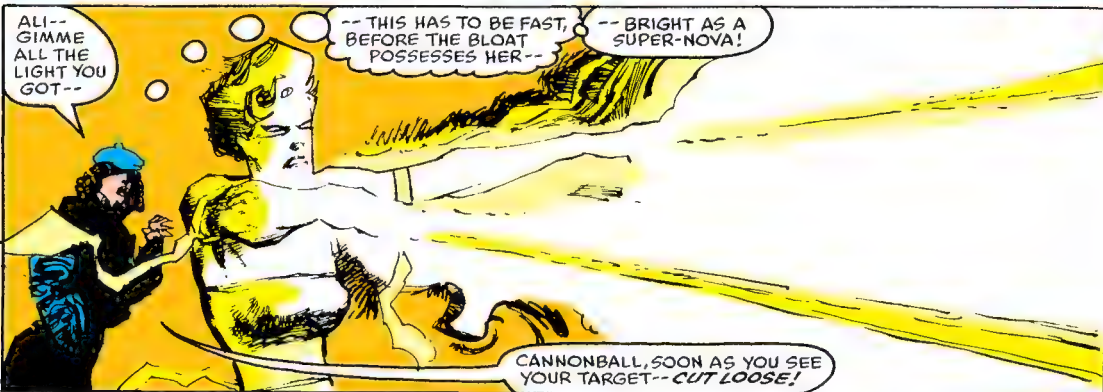
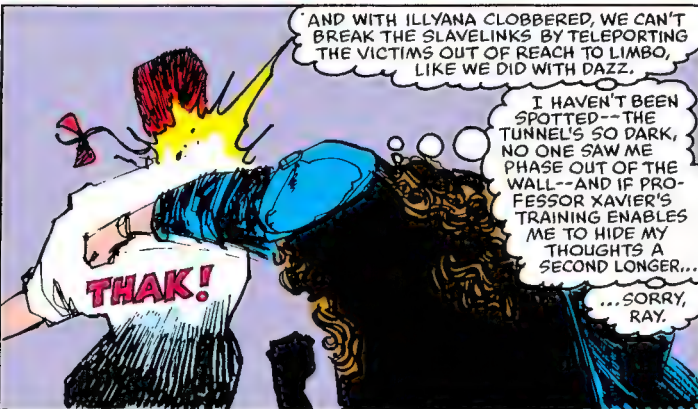
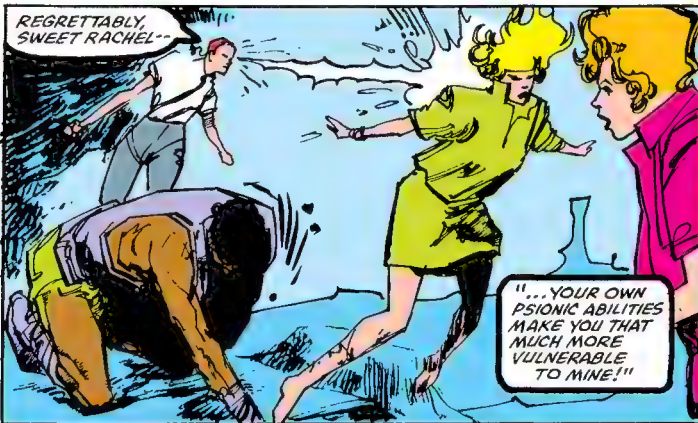
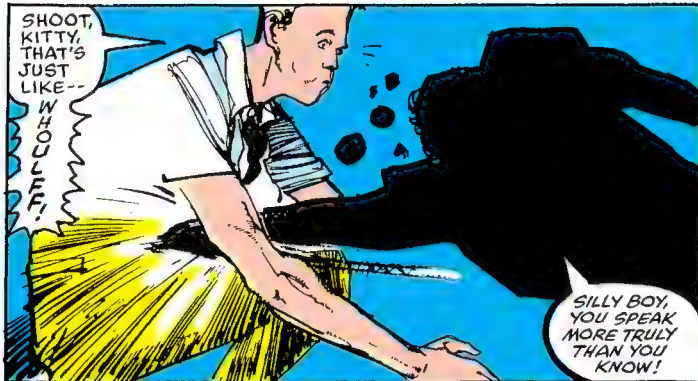
GUESS WHAT, DUMMY, THEY LIED!

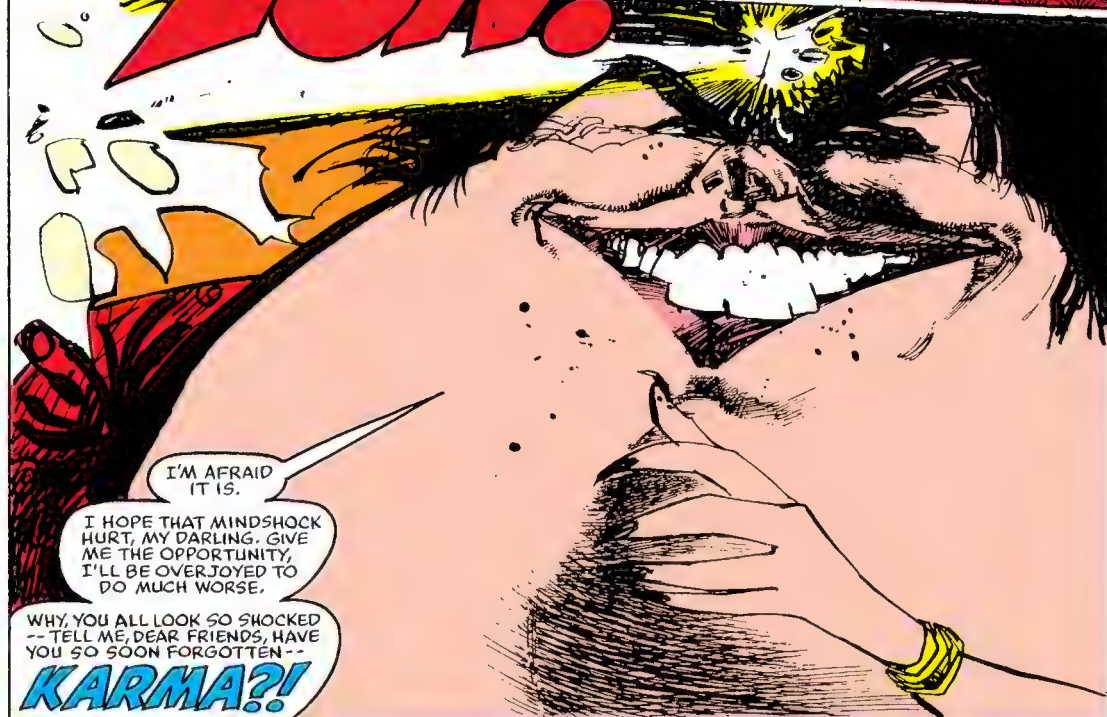
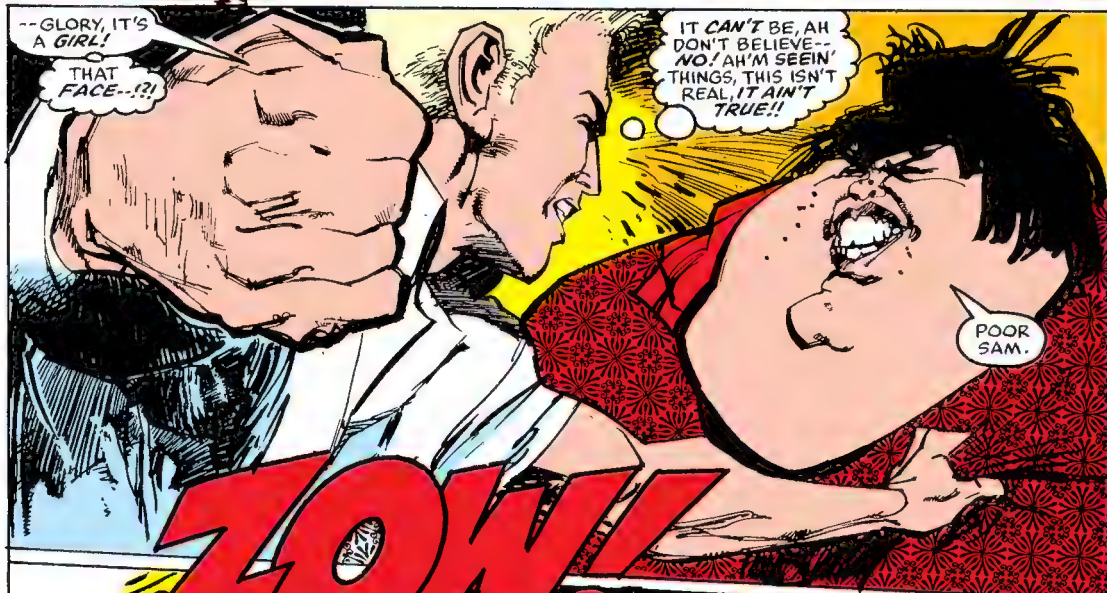
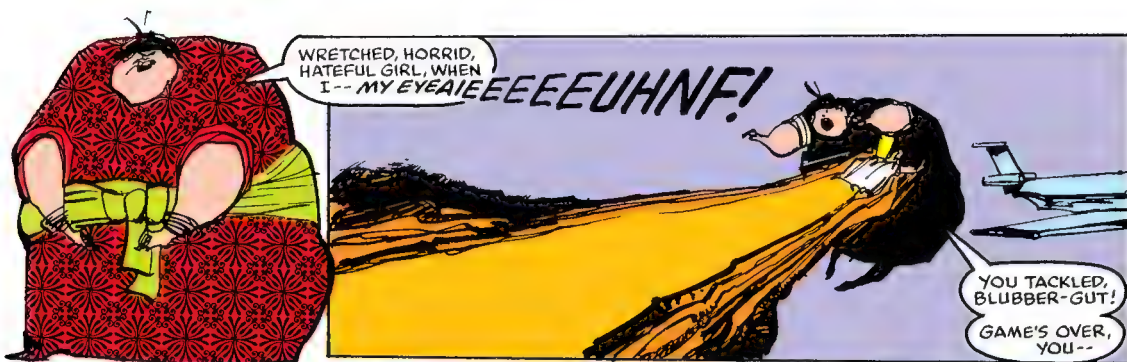
OUT OF HERE, FAST, WHILE WE'VE GOT THE CHANCE!

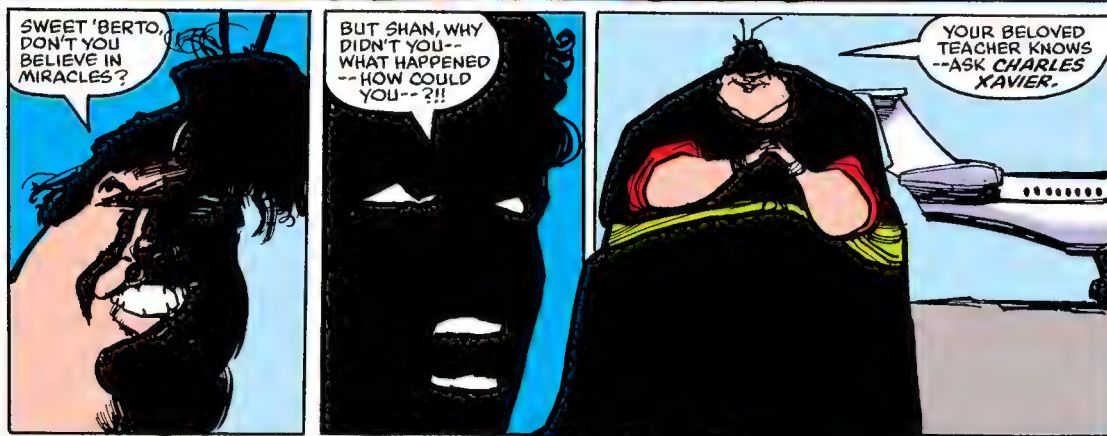
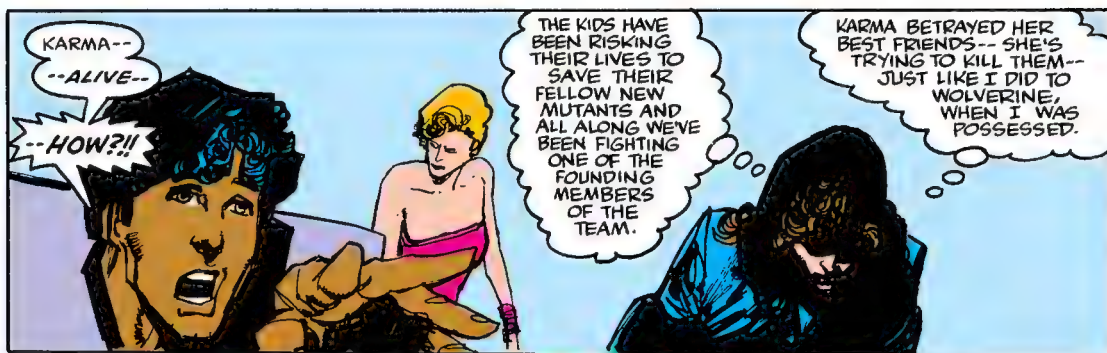
THE CROWD SURGES FOR THE EXITS...

...IGNORING, IN THEIR PANICKY FRENZY, DAZZLER'S SOOTHING CHROMATIC DISPLAY.











XAVIER TOLD US SHE WAS DEAD! HE LIED!!

HE COULD HAVE JUST BEEN WRONG, BOBBY.

THE GREATEST MUTANT MIND ON EARTH--MAKE A MISTAKE?! HA!

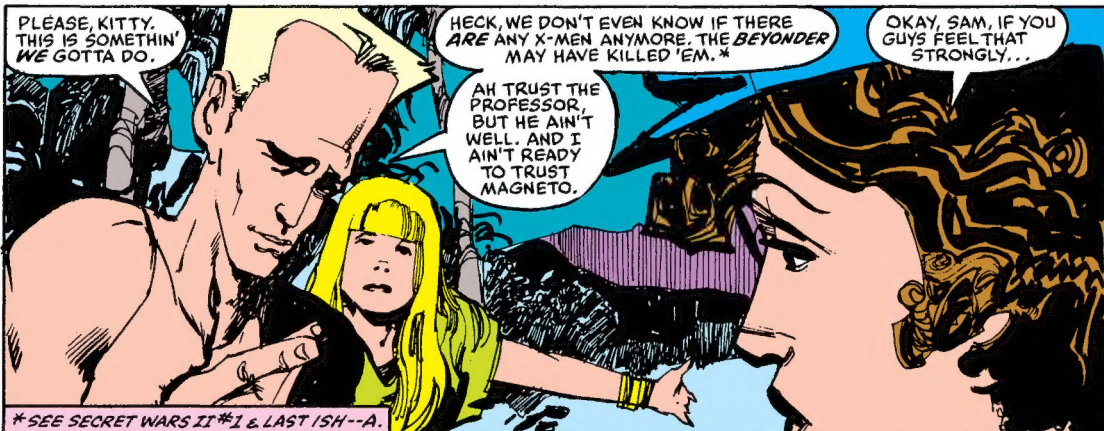
OK--HE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT YOU.



WHICHEVER, KARMA WAS ONCE A NEW MUTANT. IT THEREFORE FALLS TO US TO PUT THINGS RIGHT. WE MUST EITHER HELP HER, OR BRING HER TO JUSTICE.

MAGMA, LET THE X-MEN HANDLE IT...

WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN, SHADOWCAT.



PLEASE, KITTY, THIS IS SOMETHIN' WE GOTTA DO.

HECK, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY X-MEN ANYMORE. THE BEYONDER MAY HAVE KILLED 'EM.*

OKAY, SAM, IF YOU GUYS FEEL THAT STRONGLY...

AH TRUST THE PROFESSOR, BUT HE AIN'T WELL. AND I AIN'T READY TO TRUST MAGNETO.

*SEE SECRET WARS II #1 & LAST /SH--A.



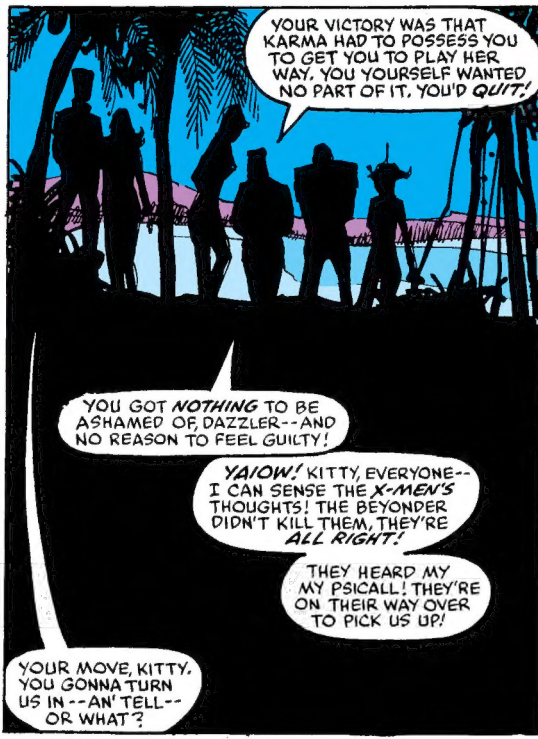
HEY, DAZZ--HOW'S BY YOU?

TOP OF THE WORLD, KITTY.

ALI, WHAT YOU DID TONIGHT, THAT WASN'T YOU. KARMA POSSESSED YOU. SHE FORCED YOU.

WHAT ABOUT LAST NIGHT? ALL THE OTHER BOUTS?! IT'S A TEMPTING--WONDERFUL--EXCUSE YOU OFFER, BUT IT WON'T WASH.

I READ YOUR DIARY, ALI! WHAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU FACED YOUR PERSONAL, PRIVATE DEMON--THE NASTY WANTS AND NEEDS AND DREAMS THAT DROVE YOU TO THE GLADIATORS--AND BEAT IT!



YOUR VICTORY WAS THAT KARMA HAD TO POSSESS YOU TO GET YOU TO PLAY HER WAY. YOU YOURSELF WANTED NO PART OF IT. YOU'D QUIT!

YOU GOT NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, DAZZLER--AND NO REASON TO FEEL GUILTY!

YAIOW! KITTY, EVERYONE--I CAN SENSE THE X-MEN'S THOUGHTS! THE BEYONDER DIDN'T KILL THEM, THEY'RE ALL RIGHT!

THEY HEARD MY MY PSICALL! THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY OVER TO PICK US UP!

YOUR MOVE, KITTY. YOU GONNA TURN US IN--AN' TELL--OR WHAT?



I'VE A NASTY
FEELING I'M GOING
TO REGRET THIS...

BUT I GUESS
SOMEONE'S GOT
TO COVER FOR YOU
WITH THE PROF.

YO, SAM--
REMEMBER, IF
THINGS GO HAYWIRE,
DON'T YOU HESITATE
TO CALL FOR HELP.

WE NEED IT, LITTLE
LADY, Y'ALL WILL BE
THE FIRST TO KNOW.

YOU THINK
WE HAVE A
CHANCE?

BEATS ME, BOBBY.

BUT SHAN WAS THE FIRST NEW
MUTANT-- OUR TEAMMATES AND
OUR FRIEND. WHATEVER IT COSTS...

...WE
GOTTA
TRY.

**NEXT: THE QUEST FOR
KARMA BEGINS BY TAKING
THE NEW MUTANTS--TO
THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!**

FROM THE PRIVATE JOURNALS
OF CHARLES XAVIER

MANUEL ALFONSO RODRIGO DE LA ROCHA/EMPATH

ONE OF THE HELLIONS, A BAND OF SUPER-POWERED MUTANTS GATHERED BY EMMA FROST, THE WHITE QUEEN OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB, IN HER ROLE AS HEADMISTRESS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY, A PRESTIGIOUS NEW ENGLAND PRIVATE SCHOOL.

HE IS QUITE SIMPLY WHAT HIS NAME IMPLIES, SOMEONE WHO CAN MANIPULATE THE EMOTIONS OF SENTIENT BEINGS IN HIS IMMEDIATE VICINITY. HE CAN MAKE THEM FEEL JOY, SADNESS, FEAR, RAGE, LOVE, HATE-- ANYTHING. THE EFFECT SEEMS TRANSITORY AND IT IS AS YET UNKNOWN WHETHER OR NOT HE CAN WREAK A PERMANENT CHANGE IN A SUBJECT'S EMOTIONAL STATE.

REGRETTABLY, HE ENJOYS UTILIZING THIS TALENT. PEOPLE, TO HIM, SEEM NO MORE THAN OBJECTS, SERVANTS PROVIDED TO GRATIFY HIS NEEDS AND WHIMS, TOYS PROVIDED FOR HIS AMUSEMENT. IF HE PERCEIVES AN INSULT, HE GENERALLY ATTEMPTS TO AVENGE IT IN THE CRUELEST, MOST HURTFUL MANNER POSSIBLE.

THERE IS NO KINDNESS IN HIM, NO DECENCY, NO GENEROSITY-- IF THERE IS A LIVING DEFINITION OF EVIL, IT MAY WELL BE HE.

WIM SISKI

MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY

HEADMISTRESS' EVALUATION-- SHARON SMITH / CATSEYE

AGE UNKNOWN / INDETERMINATE, ESTIMATED AT ROUGHLY 14-15, FERAL CHILD, WITH NO MEMORY OF ANY ENVIRONMENT SAVE THE MANHATTAN UNDERGROUND WHERE SHE GREW UP AND THE FELINE WHO ACTED AS SURROGATE MOTHER-- REFERENCE, "MOWGLI" SYNDROME, RUDYARD KIPLING'S JUNGLE BOOK.

PHENOMENAL IQ-- COMPARABLE, POSSIBLY SUPERIOR, TO KITTY PRYDE'S-- TOTAL RECALL, PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY, PROGRESSED FROM TOTAL ILLITERACY TO UPPER-GRADE SCHOOL READING LEVELS IN LESS THAN A YEAR, FORCED TO PROVIDE FOR HERSELF SINCE EARLIEST INFANCY; ENJOYS THE HUNT, IF HUNGRY, WILL NOT HESITATE TO KILL-- IN MANY WAYS, MORE ANIMAL THAN PERSON.



SINCE IT WAS I WHO FOUND HER, SHE HAS EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED HERSELF TO ME, RELATING TO ME AS A SURROGATE MOTHER.

THIS RELATIONSHIP ALLOWS FOR EXPLOITATION BY THE HELLFIRE CLUB-- BUT CONSIDERABLE CARE MUST BE TAKEN; HER YOUTH AND COMPARATIVE LACK OF SOPHISTICATION BELIE A FEROCIOUS INTELLIGENCE. SHE KNOWS WHEN SHE IS LIED TO AND WILL NOT COUNTENANCE THAT. MOREOVER, SHE AS YET NEITHER COMPREHENDS NOR ACCEPTS THE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN HELLIONS AND XAVIER'S NEW MUTANTS; SHE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THOSE WHO ARE HER PERSONAL FRIENDS MUST BE HER TEAM'S FOES.